

REMARKS

I. Introduction

In the Office Action dated June 2, 2005, claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-23 and 25-32 have been examined¹ and are rejected. The Examiner essentially maintains the grounds of rejection from the previous Office Action, which was mailed on October 5, 2004. Specifically, claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,622,018 to Erikson (hereinafter “Erikson”); claims 22-23 and 25-31 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2001/0029531 to Ohta (hereinafter “Ohta”); claims 6-8, 10-12, 14-15 and 17-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Erikson in view of Ohta; claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Erikson in view of Ohta, and further including U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0184496 to Mitchell et al. (hereinafter “Mitchell”); and claim 32 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ohta in view of Erikson.

As an initial matter, Applicant amends claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-23 and 25-32 to further clarify the features recited therein. Furthermore, Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 1-8, 10-12, 14-23 and 25-32 as follows.

¹ The Office Action Summary (Form PTOL-326) incorrectly lists claims 1-32 as pending in the application.

II. Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

A. Claims 1-5

As noted above, claims 1-5 stand rejected under § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Erikson.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, “requesting access to the resource from the helper device.” The Examiner alleges that Erikson discloses these features of claim 1 (Office Action: pages 2-3, *citing* Erikson: col. 8, lines 33-64).

To the contrary, Erikson merely describes that a controlling device can control a remote device, for example, over a wireless connection (Erikson: Abstract). In this manner, the controlling device disclosed in Erikson is similar to the PDAs of the Pebbles project, described in the background and related art section of Applicant’s specification (*see* Applicant’s specification: page 2).

Erikson fails to disclose any requesting of access to a resource of a helper device (allegedly the remote device being controlled). Instead, Erikson merely discloses that a controlling device can select a remote device to be controlled (Erikson: col. 2, lines 25-30). Thereafter, the controlling device can send commands to the remote device to control the remote device (Erikson: col. 8, lines 56-64). The remote device, however, does not control access to any of its resources and the controlling device does not request access to any such resource.

Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by Erikson. Consequently, claims 2-5 are not anticipated by Erikson, at least by virtue of their dependency.

B. Claims 22-23 and 25-31

As noted above, claims 22-23 and 25-31 stand rejected under § 102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by Ohta.

Claim 22 recites, *inter alia*, “second means in the local device for controlling access to the resource” (of the local device). The Examiner alleges that Ohta discloses these features of claim 22 (Office Action: pages 6-7, *citing* Ohta: paragraph 0037).

To the contrary, Ohta merely describes that a print server 13 manages print requests or print jobs in a print queue by storing the print requests and sends each of the print jobs to a specified one of the print stations 12A, 12B and 12C (Ohta: paragraph 0037). According to Ohta, if any of the print stations develops a problem such as a paper jam, the print server retransmits the print job to the restored print station (*Id.*). Additionally, in Ohta, when a print job is completed in a normal fashion, the print server releases the corresponding print job from the print queue (*Id.*).

Ohta fails to disclose that the print server 13 controls access to any resources of the print server. Instead, Ohta merely discloses the management of print requests/jobs.

Accordingly, claim 22 is not anticipated by Ohta. Consequently, claims 23 and 25-31 are not anticipated by Ohta, at least by virtue of their dependency.

III. Claim Rejections –35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

A. Claims 6-8 and 10

Claims 6-8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Erikson in view of Ohta.

Claim 6 recites, *inter alia*, “detecting a plurality of helper devices, each helper device providing at least one resource and controlling access to the resource.”

As noted above, neither Erikson nor Ohta discloses controlling access to a resource of a helper device. Accordingly, claim 6 is not rendered obvious by the proposed combination of Erikson in view of Ohta. Consequently, claims 8 and 10 are patentable over Erikson in view of Ohta, at least by virtue of their dependency.

B. Claims 11-12, 14-15 and 17-20

As noted above, claims 11-12, 14-15 and 17-20 stand rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Erikson in view of Ohta;

Claim 11 recites features similar to those found in claim 6. It is respectfully submitted that claim 11 is not rendered obvious by the proposed combination of Erikson in view of Ohta, based on a rationale analogous to that set forth above for claim 6. Consequently, claims 12, 14-15 and 17-20 are patentable over Erikson in view of Ohta, at least by virtue of their dependency.

C. Claim 16

As noted above, claim 16 stands rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Erikson in view of Ohta, and further including Mitchell.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No. 09/986,689
Attorney Docket No. A8182

Mitchell fails to make up for the exemplary deficiencies of Erikson and Ohta, as set forth above for claim 6. For example, Mitchell fails to teach or suggest a plurality of helper devices, wherein each helper device provides a resource and controls access to the resource.

Accordingly, claim 16 is patentable over the proposed combination of Erikson in view of Ohta, and further in view of Mitchell, at least by virtue of its dependency.

C. Claim 32

As noted above, claim 32 stands rejected under § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Ohta in view of Erikson.

Erikson fails to cure the exemplary deficiencies of Ohta, as set forth above for claim 22. For example, Erikson fails to teach or suggest any means in a local device for controlling access to a resource of the local device. Accordingly, claim 32 is patentable over the proposed combination of Ohta in view of Erikson, at least by virtue of its dependency.

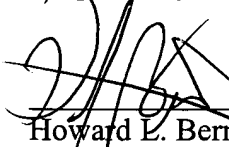
IV. Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c)
U.S. Application No. 09/986,689
Attorney Docket No. A8182

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


Howard L. Bernstein
Registration No. 25,665

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: September 29, 2005